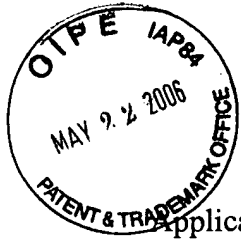


PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Richard Ian Christopherson et al.
Application No. : 09/888,959
Filed : June 25, 2001
For : ASSAY TO DETECT A BINDING PARTNER

Examiner : Karen A. Canella, Ph.D.
Art Unit : 1643
Docket No. : 650061.401C1
Date : May 22, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents:

In response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2005, please extend the period of time for response three months, to expire on May 23, 2006. Enclosed are a Petition for an Extension of Time and the requisite fee. Please amend the application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.